

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR OCTOBER 20

ABRAHAM GIVING ISAAC TO GOD.

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 22:1-14.
GOLDEN TEXT—I will give him unto
the Lord all the days of his life.—1 Sam-
uel 1:1.
DEVOTIONAL READING—Luke 14:28-33.
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR
TEACHERS—Genesis 12:1-4; 18:9-15; 21:1-12.

I. Abraham Tested (vv. 1, 2).
God does not tempt men to sin (James 1:13), but he subjects them to rigid tests to prove them. In the treatment of Abraham we have a supreme example. God tested Abraham, not Lot. Sodom tested Lot. God tests the man who is proof against the tests of Sodom. God had promised Abraham an heir through whom blessings were to come to the world. For many years his faith was sorely tried in waiting for its fulfillment. At length, his heart rejoiced in the realization of that hope. In the land in the patriarch's tent were wrapped Abraham's hopes of the future when his seed should be as the stars for multitude. His was no ordinary expectation. The human affections and hopes were, no doubt, included; but a new nation was to spring from him, and Isaac was the sole link making the connection. Then, too, he saw the coming Redeemer, for "Abraham saw my day and was glad" (John 8:56). It is only as we thus see all that Isaac meant to his father and God's purpose for the future of the world, that we really can appreciate the crucial test that came to Abraham. A test in some sense similar comes to many Christian fathers and mothers. God is calling for sons and daughters to be offered on the altar of his service. The test is something terrible, as some who have given up sons and daughters for the mission field can testify. It is only as God is known to be almighty (Genesis 17:1) shall ability be given to give them up.

II. Abraham Standing the Test (vv. 2-10).
1. On the way (vv. 3, 4). Abraham promptly obeyed. There was neither hesitancy nor arguing. God had issued the command. At his call Abraham said: "Here am I" (v. 1). He could not say "No" to God. In the ordinary affairs of life we call a man weak who cannot say "No," who has no will of his own; but the man who could not say "No" to God, we count strong. Early in the morning he was on the way to the place of which God had told him. All who really believe in God will yield themselves to him without question, reserve, or skirting. Anything short of this is not consecration. We should not stop to ask how or why. It is enough to know that God has spoken.

2. "Abide ye here" (v. 5). This testing experience was too sacred for human eyes to gaze upon. How like this the words of Jesus in Gethsemane: "Tarry ye here." Human sympathy is sweet, and is to be prized, but we need to be alone in times of great testing. There are times when human sympathy hinders us from doing our duty. When Abraham said: "We will come down again to you," he spoke sincerely, for he believed that God would give him Isaac back from the dead (Heb. 11:19).

3. Isaac bearing the wood upon which he is to be offered (vv. 6, 7). This reminds us of Christ bearing the cross on the way to Calvary. Isaac must have been now a young man. He did not resist or cry out, but graciously submitted, showing that he is making a willing sacrifice.

4. The angel of the Lord calls (vv. 8-12). At the critical moment when Abraham's hand had lifted the gleaming blade to make real the offering, God interposed. God did not want human sacrifice as a burnt offering, but he wanted Abraham to give up to him his best, the surrender of his will to him. God is always pleased with submissive obedience. "To obey is better than sacrifice." Many times we are face to face with the test of giving up our fondest hopes and purposes, but when we have met the test as Abraham did, we get back our offering or greater things instead.

III. God Will Provide Himself a Lamb (vv. 13, 14).

Just behind Abraham was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. Him Abraham offered instead of his son. In the words "God will provide himself a lamb" (v. 8) we have the whole plan of redemption outlined. God has provided the costly sacrifice of his Son to satisfy himself.

He who has no taste for order will be often wrong in his judgment and seldom considerate or conscientious in his actions.—Lavater.

Value of the Bible.
The Bible is to us what the star was to the wise men; but if we spend all our time in gazing upon it, observing its motions, and admiring its splendor and are not led to Christ by it, the use of it will be lost to us.—T. Adams.

Truths From on High.

All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truths that come from on high and are contained in the sacred writings.—Herschel.

GIVES VIEWS ON VITAL ISSUES

Acceptance Speech of Dr. Ben. L. Bruner, Republican Nominee For U. S. Senator

In Address Delivered at Manchester, Ky., Monday, September 16, 1918, Dr. Bruner Expresses His Appreciation of Honor and States Position on the Issues of the Day.

The Republicans of Kentucky, in a state-wide primary, have generously entrusted me with the nomination of the party for United States Senator, the highest office within the gift of the people of the state. To say that I highly appreciate this great honor so given me at this momentous time in the nation's history is but a mild expression of my feelings. I can never forget the confidence and the trust reposed in me evidenced by this signal honor, and I trust that no act of mine shall cause the party or the people of Kentucky to regret this action.

In this connection I would not forget to express my gratitude to the independent voters and Democratic voters who aided in my nomination by their expressions of approval of my candidacy. So in accepting this nomination I not only want to express to you and to them my gratitude, but also to impress upon all of you that I profoundly feel and realize the grave responsibilities that will devolve upon me in the event of my election to the greatest deliberative body in the world—the United States Senate.

It is but right and proper that you, the citizens of Kentucky, who enjoy the great privilege of choice in electing those who are to serve you, should be informed of the position on all the fundamental questions confronting you as citizens taken by the candidates who appeal to you for your suffrage. In other words, you have a right to demand of your public servants an expression of their views upon these great issues, therefore I do not hesitate to frankly, though briefly as possible state my position upon these vital propositions.

Position on War.

The first great question—the paramount question—the most vital question—now demanding our attention is that of the world-war and all the correlated questions connected therewith.

In addition thereto, and not less important, will be the great problems, economic and otherwise, that will be pressing for solution and settlement at the conclusion of and immediately following the war. The most important of these will be the treaties of peace, the consummation of which will impose upon the Senate of the United States great responsibilities. Next to the President himself, then in importance is the Senate of the United States.

Speaking for myself, I am frank to state that I loathe war—I hate war—and we as a nation hate war because war means the taking of life, the destruction of property—it leaves wake and misery and grief in its awful wake, and there are none of us who would not do anything within human power consistent with right principles to prevent war—but America is in this war, and, despite all our abhorrence of war, we must not hesitate, but all of us together must do our best to win this war, and win it now. The best and quickest way out of this war is straight through it, thereby saving the lives of as many of our dear boys as possible.

I would not have you understand in this connection that I do not realize the fact that a great nation like ours must sometimes fight in order to maintain its integrity and its dignity as well as to vindicate the great purposes for which as a nation we live and have our existence. I feel that as long as men live and control nations there will be great danger of war, and, therefore, all nations must maintain to a certain extent armies and navies, and a certain amount of preparation for war is necessary though living in peace—and I am in favor of a country, when it becomes necessary to strike in war, to strike unflinchingly and with all its force and power.

The German nation has sinned against the world—has sinned against God and man. Through its Kaiser and war lords it has ignored its treaties with the other nations of the world—through its army it has committed the most atrocious crimes known to civilization. Its soldiery has murdered innocent children—outraged pure womanhood—and this not in isolated cases, but today thousands of homes mourn the lives of mothers and children and fathers who have been outraged and murdered in a manner more cruel than was ever practiced by the worst savages of the ages past. The unspeakable crimes committed by the German army have stamped this militaristic nation as the most dangerous enemy of mankind on the face of the earth today.

In this short address there is not time to discuss the reasons and the causes leading up to this war, nor shall I take time to discuss at length the reasons for the decline of the German empire, once a great country, to the depths of crime and degradation to which as a nation it has sunk. It has worshiped "kultur" and the superman instead of the true God; in other words, it has made "kultur" and the superman its God—and God has said the nation that sinneth shall die, and the onward sweep of republican ideas clearly indicate that the hour of the

death of the German empire is now at hand, and that this promise of God shall be and is now being fulfilled, and most of us living today will see the fulfillment of this promise in the death of Prussianism—of autocracy.

Will Uphold President's Hands.

At the very beginning of this contest I pledge you that if elected to this high office, as I firmly believe I shall be, I will be, at all times, consistently AMERICAN, and that unreservedly and unequivocally I shall support the administration's war policies and purposes, and that in regard to questions affecting us as Americans I shall sink all thought of partisanship and as an example of the training of a good soldier shall follow where America, under our Commander-in-Chief, Woodrow Wilson, leads. My party in Congress has stood firmly behind the President and the Government upon all of these measures for carrying on the war and the bringing about of a speedy and victorious peace, and I heartily commend this course.

For a Dictated American Peace.

I pledge you that I am now, and have been all along, for nothing but an American peace with victory, and I am unalterably opposed to any sort of compromise with Prussian autocracy and militarism, believing as I do that this one thing surmounts and overshadows all else—Americans demand A PEACE BY VICTORY—A DICTATED PEACE.

Greatest Nation.

This nation is the greatest under the shining sun, because it sprang from the pick of the other nations of the world—therefore the greatest, the grandest, the noblest thing on earth today is to be an American citizen—a God-fearing, a God-loving American citizen—and our army being mobilized, trained and equipped in our cantonments, both in America and Europe and in the trenches "Over There," is the greatest army the world has yet seen, because that army is made up of the choicest of the young manhood of America—the young men from every walk and station in life—and this army, with the spirit that dominates their breasts—a love of liberty—of righteousness and justice—burning in their souls as it does, with a zeal and fire that knows no quenching, will "Carry On" across "No Man's Land"—over the ramparts of the enemy—across the Rhine—through the enemy's country into the very streets of Berlin, and all the powers and resources of the war lords of Prussianism can not cope with our American soldiers or stop their victorious advance. They will continue to lead the allied armies until we have crushed the enemy and forced him to an unconditional surrender—every semblance of Prussian autocracy must be destroyed before the world can have peace, and these American soldiers who will have won this great victory for humanity and for the freedom of mankind are our own dear boys—they are from our own homes and from around our own firesides, therefore we must leave nothing undone that will redound to their welfare, because they are fighting our battles and preserving our great nation and maintaining our liberties and rights while battling in the trenches against the German armies in Europe. We must see that they have the best possible care, and that they are provided with everything needful to aid them in winning a speedy victory.

Then we must also see that their dependents—their widows and orphans—are given everything possible that a great nation like ours can give for their future benefit and protection. They must be taken care of in a way far better than any nation has yet made provision for the dependents of their soldiers and sailors, and in the spirit of the immortal Lincoln: "With malice toward none with charity to all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

I am also in favor of giving our soldiers free transportation, and, in addition, giving their immediate families reduced rates on railroads when visiting their soldier relatives in our army camps.

Favors Prohibition.

In my judgment, next to winning the war itself and providing the necessary revenue therefore, no other one thing is of more vital importance at this time than prohibition—local, state and national. To me it has been one of the most remarkable things connected with our great national life that our people could sell the lives of our boys and our girls, of our splendid manhood and blessed womanhood, for the paltry price of a few millions of revenue—and I want to be understood here as saying that we have been cowards among cowards—we have been completely unmindful of our duties and responsibilities as fathers and mothers in waiting so long to destroy the awful liquor traffic.

I introduced a nation-wide prohibition plank at the State Republican Convention, June 15th, 1915, at Lexington, Ky. I also, in the same convention, voted for a state-wide prohibition plank introduced by Judge Ed C. O'Rear, as the records of said convention show, and I shall support both by voice and vote the state-wide prohibition amendment to the State Constitution to be voted upon next year. My views on this question since I have become a voter has been consistent with this record, and I shall unhesitatingly support all measures to make national prohibition effectively enforceable. Since it will be the duty of Congress to enact laws putting national prohibi-

tion into effect, a staunch friend and supporter of prohibition should be sent to the United States Senate from Kentucky at this time.

Favors Woman Suffrage.

And yet another of the great questions before our Congress for settlement, which I trust may be settled ere this campaign is closed—and that by the present Congress now in session—is that of woman suffrage. I have ardently stood for this from the time of my life as a schoolboy, and through all the years of my manhood have been an advocate of equal suffrage for women, therefore it is no new question to me, as I am no recent convert thereto, and I shall support this amendment to our Federal Constitution.

Marvelous National Growth.

A hundred years ago we were a nation of only a few millions of people and worth but a few billions of dollars, almost bankrupt as a nation, but with the great opportunities that lay out before us, with the indefatigable energy, skill and perseverance of young Americans, we took advantage of our position in the new world, surrounded as we were by almost immeasurable natural resources, and builded as no nation in the world are built before, we grew in that century just past from that handful of colonists, principally upon our eastern shores, until today we are a nation of more than a hundred millions of people, and on whose flag—the Stars and Stripes—the sun never sets.

But this is not the marvelous thing regarding our growth, that we have increased in population—in a strong and hardy manhood and womanhood—the thing at which the world has marveled most is our remarkable accumulation of wealth. We have grown from a little bankrupt nation of one hundred years ago until today we—six per cent of the world's population as we are—own more than one-third of all the world's wealth. The larger part of this wealth has been accumulated in most of our great institutions represented by our great agricultural interests, our great manufacturing industries, our wonderful mining properties, and our great transportation systems—the greater portion of this wealth has been accumulated and builded in the past half century. The greater part of that time this nation was under the control, in so far as its national governmental affairs were concerned, of the Republican party. All of the great principles of that party for which I still stand are, first of all, equal suffrage to all, protection to American labor and American industries, and a sound and unquestioned monetary system.

It is to the soundness of these great fundamental principles that America owes the greater part of her wonderful growth, and it is upon these basic principles that America must build during the rehabilitation period following the devastation of this terrible war. We must make a sane preparation for the solution of the problems, diverse in their complexity and almost immeasurable in their magnitude, which will press for solution immediately following the conclusion of peace. We must bring the Government within the limitations and principles of the Constitution in time of peace and re-establish policies which bind up the wounds of the war, administer the affairs of the Government with the greatest economy, promote prosperity, increase our strength at home and abroad, prevent and prohibit the further spread of undue socialistic tendencies toward Federal ownership, which is exploited by some as a panacea for every real or fancied ill of society, and as quickly as possible set these great principles in motion that will place the nation's feet once more firmly on the paths of progress and prosperity along the ways which liberty, order and justice must ever guard and keep. This last expression is the gist of the third plank in a platform given to the public by Chairman Hays, and with which I heartily agree.

Peace Terms.

It will be the duty of America in her peace negotiations to prohibit bargaining or compromising with the enemy of mankind over these terms. The entire world is looking to America from this hour to not only furnish the reserves in man power, war material and food for the speedy winning of the war, but the world is looking to America to take the lead in the consummation of peace terms that will, in so far as possible, safeguard the interests of our allies and bring about a peace that will make and keep humanity safe in all time to come from the aggressions of Prussian autocracy and militarism.

America a Peace-Loving Nation.

I submit to you that at the beginning of this terrible war America was a peaceful nation—not only a peaceful nation, but a peace-loving nation. She was a nation unprepared for war—unprepared in all that that word means—unprepared, in so far as having a great navy or a great army trained—unprepared in the way of munitions and equipment for soldiers and sailors, and most of all unprepared in heart and soul and spirit—but she has gone through a transformation almost magical in its action—far beyond the fondest hopes and expectations of men—and I say to you that the one thing above all others that has enabled America to be so quickly transformed from an unprepared nation for war into a veritable fighting machine was the unbounded patriotism of our people; I can think of no higher compliment that could be paid our form of government in this country than this transformation presents—glorious tribute to a self-governing people.

Again, America had twenty-five millions of American men and women in the different walks of life who, during these many years, had been enabled to enjoy privileges and opportunities in

the way of building homes, educating their children and preparing them for useful service such as the working people of no other nation under the sun have ever enjoyed—then has not the American soldier more to fight for than any other soldier in the trenches today? Has he not more to inspire him to fight?

Merchant Marine.

In keeping with the great and modern business advancement in this country, I am in favor of measures for building a great merchant marine and the creating of a great shipping industry that shall be amply sufficient to carry all our products to every mart and port of the world. After the close of this terrible conflict with the warring countries of Europe, all but a desert waste, their great institutions of every kind destroyed and staggering, as they will be, under their terrible, unbearable burdens of taxation—all this will tend to bring about the lowest wage scale for the working people of these countries the world has ever known in modern times; therefore, unless we have a protective tariff that will equal the difference in the cost of production at home and abroad we will find the American markets showing a preference for the products of other countries, all to the detriment of American working men and women.

Partisan Politics.

Men and women of Kentucky, I submit to you that this is not the hour for partisan politics, but it is the hour of one hundred per cent Americanism. The President of the United States doubtless wished to be taken at his word when he said: "Politics is adjourned," and I propose to fight this battle of the ballots with that phrase as my slogan. Neither do I intend to be turned from the proper course of this campaign by the vicious stabs of the partisan press or the loud hurrahs and cries of the selfish office-holding partisans. I submit to you, patriotic Kentuckians, that instead of the partisan politics usually evidenced in Kentucky we are afforded an opportunity now as never before to exercise at the ballot box that priceless privilege of American citizens that our own gallant boys are giving their life's blood in Europe to maintain—that is a "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people." If that privilege—to be freemen—to be citizens—is worth fighting and dying for, is it not worth our most sacred care here at home? Then ignoring the partisan press, let us demonstrate our independence as citizens by voting for whom we choose, and according to the dictates of our own consciences.

Therefore, I repeat, this is not the time for partisan politics—it is not the time to challenge men's patriotism because of differences of opinion regarding either religion or politics; but it is a time when we should challenge and must challenge any un-American acts on the part of any and every citizen—it is a time at which every man's public and private life is, so far as it relates to his Americanism, must be made subject to the most critical scrutiny.

Certain extreme partisans among the press of Kentucky, while admitting my loyalty and patriotism, my honesty and my sincerity of purpose, are making a desperate fight against any one voting for me for United States Senator—one paper even going so far as to say that the name of the man designated by thirteen men of his own political party and of his own personal choosing is, in spite of everything else that might be said of him, and in spite of the way in which he was chosen as the nominee—notwithstanding all these things, this paper insists that his name is the only name that the voters of Kentucky have to vote for in order to uphold the hands of the administration and demonstrate their patriotism.

In answering this unjust criticism—this unmanly criticism—of those who see cause to support me, I trust I shall not go beyond the bonds of dignity when I say that this kind of editorial propaganda now being indulged in by some of the leading papers of the opposite political faith is the worst sort of German propaganda that has been permitted to be disseminated among our people at any time during the course of this war. It is on a par with the propaganda put forward by the governor of this state, who is my opponent, in his veto of the German language bill, which both Houses of the Legislature of Kentucky, at its last session, passed almost unanimously, making it unlawful to teach German in the schools of our state at the expense of our taxpayers. In view of these facts, if my election would cause, as alleged, joy in Berlin and gloom and sorrow in Paris and London, can you imagine how the Kaiser would receive the news of the election of my opponent, who favors the teaching of the Kaiser's language in our common schools at public expense?

Then again, their plea that the only way to show your loyalty is to vote for Stanley is not only absurd, but foolish, and approaches more nearly to yellow journalism than anything we have read in any Kentucky paper since war was declared more than eighteen months ago.

Perhaps I may be pardoned in this connection for a personal allusion—and nothing except the dissemination of propaganda favorable to the German cause could induce me to refer to this matter in this manner—but, in answer to this charge, I submit to you this one proposition for your careful and serious consideration. You fathers and mothers who have given your sons, you wives who have given your companions, the fathers of your children; you who have given your brothers to fight upon the battlefields of Europe, do you not believe that a man who himself has been a soldier under the Stars and Stripes and who has given a boy,

who is now in the trenches in France, will uphold the hands of the President in every plan and measure calculated to result in a speedy and successful conclusion of this war and the return of our boys to their homes? It is for you, men of Kentucky, to make this decision—it is your duty to make this decision, and I shall be perfectly willing to abide by your result. I believe in this hour of the world's stress—in this awful crisis—that men can not be driven from their better judgments by the deceptive plea of a partisan press. I believe, sober, thinking people of Kentucky realize that this is an American war—that these boys in the trenches are Americans fighting for America—they are not Democrats or Republicans—and I believe that American feelings has not led me, as I said in the belief that he is OUR PRESIDENT—that he is OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—and that he is fighting a war for freedom of mankind and not a war to elevate his party or its partisans upon a pinnacle of fame. It would be just as sane and sound argument for the Republican press of Kentucky to appeal to our boys in the trenches to uphold the hands of General Pershing because he is a Republican.

I trust that the intensity of my feelings has not led me, as I said in the beginning, to go beyond the bounds of dignity and propriety in discussing this matter in this way.

In conclusion, fellow-citizens, I want to say to you that it is your duty as citizens to scrutinize my record as an official and also that of my opponent, and I charge here and now that as governor of Kentucky my opponent has failed to keep full faith with the people—I haven't the time to enumerate the numerous ways in which he has failed to keep his promises made as a candidate three years ago, but hurriedly may I ask these questions? Will you tell the people, Mr. Stanley, how many offices you have abolished without creating new ones in their stead? Will you tell them how much you have reduced the running expenses of the government? Will you tell them how you have helped them in the burdens of taxation? Will you tell them whether you have kept faith with them in exercising the pardoning power? Will you tell them why you have ruthlessly placed the eleemosynary institutions of Kentucky again under partisan control and made them an adjunct to a political machine? And last, my dear governor, will you tell us what you have done with your "Fire Putters Out," and what is your chief "Fire Putter Out" doing just now?

These, and many other things, should be inquired into by the people of Kentucky, because, Mr. Citizen of Kentucky, when you vote for my opponent you cast a ballot to endorse every official act of his and his administration, and you have a right to demand of him, as you do of any other public servant, performances in keeping with promises.

MRS. CHARLOTTE ELDRIDGE



Mrs. Charlotte Eldridge of New York was visiting in Washington last spring when she realized that she could broaden her war work. She began by singing in the camps around Washington, continuing meanwhile her Liberty loan work. She is now working in the United States public service reserve and occupying herself principally in the task of securing the services of the country's big executives and placing them in the various departments and bureaus of the government.

COULD ENDURE SPANKING

Tommy, after going to bed, became thirsty or that so. He called out to his mother, who was down stairs:

"Say, ma, I want a drink." The mother's voice answered back:

"Tommy, you go to sleep."

Tommy grunted, turned over, and was silent for ten minutes. Then again he called out to her:

"Ma, I want a drink."

"Tommy, you go right to sleep," was the reply.

Intense silence again for ten minutes. Then:

"Say, ma, I want a drink."

"Tommy, if you don't go right to sleep, I'll come and spank you."

More silence, this time about ten minutes. And this:

"Say, ma, when you come to spank me, won't you bring me a drink?"